

We make a solemn pledge that we will honor all of the victims by committing ourselves to defend our land, our families and our freedom. Today we go back to work in Washington, in New York, and all around the country; and we are determined to show the world that America will not be defeated by anyone.

Finally, we will do everything within our power to bring these heinous terrorists to justice, to address this act of horrible, despicable cowardice, and to ensure that something like this never, ever happens to our people again.

We should also recognize that our public spaces, the heart and soul of American freedom, American ingenuity and American entrepreneurship, were violated yesterday in the most heinous way. We must, in one voice, work to reassure the American people that they are safe on the streets, in the air, and in all of our buildings no matter where they live or work. This Congress, in a nonpartisan way, will work as hard as humanly possible to make sure that our people have the safety they demand and deserve, and that terror is defeated completely and finally.

Make no mistake, this was an act of war against the United States and all of our people; and we will not be divided. All of us, the President, the Congress, and the American people, are today, and will be tomorrow and in all of the tomorrows, totally and completely united in our determination to begin the process of healing and to take swift action to see that the people who committed this horrible crime are properly punished.

May God shed His grace on this great and wonderful country and all of our people.

□ 1015

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 1-minute speeches on each side until 11 o'clock.

AVENGING TERRORIST ATTACK

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, the events of yesterday, September 11, are forever seared into our minds as with branding irons. We grieve for the victims and their families. We pray for them.

Let the word go forth to our enemies. We are united in our resolve to avenge the deaths of our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our husbands and wives.

In righteousness, the United States Government will hunt down to the ends of the earth the assassins of our innocent kin and strike them down.

TERRORIST ATTACKS WERE ACTS OF WAR

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the darkest day in American history. Pearl Harbor pales in comparison.

I join all other Americans who are shocked and outraged by the terrorist hijackings and attacks on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon. Last night I saw firsthand the carnage resulting from the attack on the Pentagon.

Let there be no mistake, the United States Government will investigate and pursue those who were behind this cowardly attack. These terrorist attacks were truly acts of war, and we will respond forcefully and appropriately. The United States will take action against the terrorists and punish those governments that support and harbor such criminals.

This incomprehensible tragedy is a terrible reminder that we must take the threat of terrorism seriously. If Congress and the administration are willing to develop an overall strategy and commit adequate resources, we can prepare an effective defense to protect our American people.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, and I especially express my gratitude to all emergency and law enforcement personnel and other volunteers, many of whom have lost their lives.

I urge all Americans who have a flag, to fly it high and demonstrate we stand united in this moment of tragedy.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I join the countless others in this Chamber, in this great Nation, and throughout the world in expressing condolences to the families of the victims of yesterday's deplorable attack. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel a sense of pride for the strength of character and humanity shown by the American people, strength which is shining as a beacon of light, guiding us through this time of darkness and sorrow.

The response of our President, the U.S. Government, and our American society is a testament to this Republic and to our free and democratic system of government. It demonstrates that democracy will always triumph over terrorism. Through the ash-filled sky of New York City, Lady Liberty's torch pierces through as a reminder of American resolve.

I express my full support to the President, his national security team,

our military, our intelligence officials as they develop a swift, precise and unequivocal response to the perpetrators of these heinous acts, as well as against those who made it possible by providing them with safe haven, training areas and funding.

We will prevail. God bless the United States of America.

AMERICA WILL SEEK JUSTICE

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, last night, in spite of the horror and terror of what happened yesterday, I went to bed knowing where my family, my immediate family, was and with a sense of relief.

That is not true for many of the constituents in my District and in the Bay area, obviously the surviving families of the folks that were on the planes, the rescuers and the victims in New York, and the members of our military and the civilian employees at the Pentagon. Too many Americans last night went to bed not knowing where their families were.

One of my constituents was on United Flight 93 from Boston, and he was able to call his family and tell them that he loved them. We offer the condolences to the Burnett family of San Ramon and the many other families in the Bay area, to be known, that we lost yesterday, great Americans, Americans to whom we pledge that we will not rest, we will not rest until we find the people that damaged the psyche and the hearts of the American people forever. We will not rest and we will find them and we will bring them to justice.

AMERICANS RISE TO THE OCCASION

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we as Americans this morning must confront the harsh reality. Yesterday, acts of war were committed against our Nation. Accordingly, a state of war exists between the United States and all entities of terrorism in the world.

I welcome the fact that we stand united, because even in this, our darkest hour, we see thousands of real-life examples of what has always been true in our history. America's citizens are seemingly ordinary people who at times of national need and distress rise to the occasion and do extraordinary things.

In that spirit, today, though, Mr. Speaker, I call on our Commander in Chief and the American people to take